

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 00583 161209Z

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ACTION L-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 DPW-01 SAJ-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1927

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 583

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM PFOR ICRC VN VS

SUBJ: "PRG"ISSUE AT LOW CONFERENCE

REFS: A) STATE 8673; B) STATE 7284; C) SAIGON 392

1. WELCOME INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL A BUT
HAVE SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STRENGTHENING OUR APPROACH ON
"PRG" ISSUES INTERNATIONALLY TO UNDERLINE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH
TO THE QUESTION IN THE LIGHT OF CURRENT NVA OFFENSIVE AND
ESTABLISHMENT OF "PRG" OFFICE IN GENEVA.

2. WE RECOMMEND THAT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS BE SENT TO ALL
DIPLOMATIC POSTS IN ONE OR MORE MESSAGES INCLUDING POINTS BELOW.

3. IN ADDITION TO STATEMENTS IN PARA TWO REFTEL A CONCERNING
NATURE OF "PRG", WE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT IT IS ENTIRELY
DEPENDENT FOR ITS EXISTENCE ON THE PRESENCE OF A LARGE NUMBER
OF WELL-ARMED NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN THE SOUTH. WE SHOULD ALSO
POINT OUT THAT RECENT COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE IN WHICH THEY SEIZED
AN ENTIRE PROVINCE HELD BY GVN AT TIME OF CEASEFIRE DEMONSTRATES A
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 00583 161209Z

DISREGARD OF INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS WHICH DOES NOT MAKE "PRG"
APPEAR TO BE A QUALIFIED CANDIDATE FOR A CONFERENCE INTENDED TO

SET INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS. WE COULD FURTHER POINT OUT THAT SEIZURE OF PHUOC LONG HAS ALREADY BROUGHT SOME REPORTS OF REFUGEES BEING SHOT DOWN BY COMMUNIST TROOPS AS THEY FLED THE SCENE OF BATTLE, AND THAT THESE CRUELITIES ONLY ADD TO A LONG LIST OF PRIOR SIMILAR INCIDENTS WHICH MAKE HYPOCRITICAL TO THE EXTREME THE EFFORT OF SOME COUNTRIES TO BRING ABOUT "PRG" ADMISSION TO A CONFERENCE WITH HUMANITARIAN AIMS.

4. FURTHER WEIGHT COULD BE GIVEN TO US POSITION IF ALL POSTS WERE INSTRUCTED TO PRESENT COPY OF US NOTE OF JAN 11 (REF B) TO HOST GOVTS IN MAKING THEIR DEMARCHES.

5. IN A SEPARATE BUT RELATED MATTER, WE NOTE INSTRUCTIONS ON "PRG" ADMISSION AS OBSERVER TO WMO CONGRESS (REF C) HAVE NOT YET GONE OUT. MFA DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS TOLD US JAN 16 THAT GVN CONSIDERING URGING THAT QUESTION OF INVITING "PRG" AS OBSERVER SHOULD BE SUBJECT OF CONSULTATION AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES UNDER PARA B OF RULE 65 PRIOR TO POSTAL BALLOT BEING TAKEN. WE WOULD APPRECIATE VIEWS OF DEPARTMENT OR OTHER ADDRESSEES AS TO WHETHER THIS RULE CAN BE USED IN FURTHER APPROACH TO SECRETARIAT OR AS AN ARGUMENT FOR NEGATIVE VOTES IN POSTAL BALLOT.
MARTIN

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